In The Claims:

Claims 9, 12, 15, and 20 have been amended as follows:

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9. (Once Amended) A field emission device comprising:

a substrate;

a cathode conductive layer disposed over said substrate; and

an emitter tip integral with an emitter layer disposed over said cathode conductive layer and having a base adjacent to the emitter layer, an apex, and a continuously concave exterior surface extending from the base to the apex.

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12. (Once Amended) A field emission device comprising:

a substrate;

a cathode conductive layer disposed over said substrate; and

an emitter tip projecting from and integral with an emitter layer disposed over said cathode conductive layer and having a base adjacent to the emitter layer, an apex, and an exterior surface, said exterior surface having a substantially paraboloid vertical profile that extends from the base to the apex.

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(Once Amended) A field emission device comprising:

a substrate;

a cathode conductive layer disposed over said substrate; and

an emitter tip that is an integral portion of a single emitter layer disposed over said cathode conductive layer and having a base adjacent to the emitter layer, an apex, and an exterior surface, said exterior surface having an ovoid profile that extends from the base to the apex

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20. (Once Amended) A flat panel display device comprising:

a substrate;

a cathode conductive layer disposed over said sybstrate;

an array of emitter tips formed as a part of an emitter layer disposed over said substrate, each of said emitter tips having a height and including a base adjacent to the emitter layer and an apex, each of said emitter tips having an exterior surface, said exterior surface having a profile with a continuous shape that extends from the base to the apex, said continuous shape being selected from the group consisting of a concave shape, a substantially paraboloid shape, and an ovoid shape;

a conductive gate structure disposed over said cathode conductive layer;

an array of apertures formed through said conductive gate structure, each of said emitter tips being exposed through one of said apertures; and

an anode panel for emitting light in response to electrons emitted from said array of emitter tips.